Setting up of AIR/DD centres in the country

1556. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The details of proposal pending at present for setting up of Radio Stations and Doordarshan Centres in different parts of the country;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of such projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharti formulates plans for expansion of AIR/Doordarshan facilities in the country after taking into account existing coverage and infrastructural facilities at a given place, extent of resultant coverage, *inter-se* priorities, availability of financial resources etc. Requests for setting up of new AIR/Doordarshan Stations are received from time to time by Prasar Bharti and these are taken into consideration while formulating Five Year/Annual Plans. Prasar Bharti does not maintain any list of pending proposals for setting up of Doordarshan Kendras/ AIR Stations.

(c) Regular monitoring of all projects in AIR and Doordarshan network is carried out by Prasar Bharti at the Zonal and Headquarter levels and remedial measures, as necessary, are taken up for completion of projects as per schedule.

Exploitation by mafia cable operators

1557. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some mafia cable operators in the country are exploiting the viewers by monopolising their transactions;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the exploitation; and

(c) the guidelines issued by Government for controlling the activities of cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The operation of the cable television networks in the country are governed by the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Act, *inter-alia*, provides for manadatory registration of cable operators and does not envisage any restrictions on the number of operators in a given area. Nor is there any legal provision to regulate subscription fee charged by the various channels or cable operators. In case of violation of the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, action is to be taken by the authorised officers i.e. DM/SDM/Commissioner of Police and such other officers as may be notified by the State/Central Government. In addition, the Chairman of Inter-Media Publicity Co-ordination Committee (IMPCC), of each State, can receive complaints against the cable television network operators and follow them up with the authorised officers for appropriate redressal.

AIR Centre in Tejpur, Assam

1558. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the date of establishment of AIR Centre in Tejpur, Assam, its coverage area and proposed activities;

(b) the reasons for not operating any news bulletin and other broadcast even after a lapse of two years; and

(c) the target date set to make it really functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) AIR Tejpur, Assam, was commissioned on 1st July 2000. Its coverage in terms of area is 18.6 thousand sq. kms. The Station is originating folk music, film music and other outside broadcasting recordings produced locally.

(b) Local news in Assamese is broadcast by Guwahati Station which is relayed by all Stations in Assam including Tejpur.

(c) At present Tejpur Station has one transmission. Increase in